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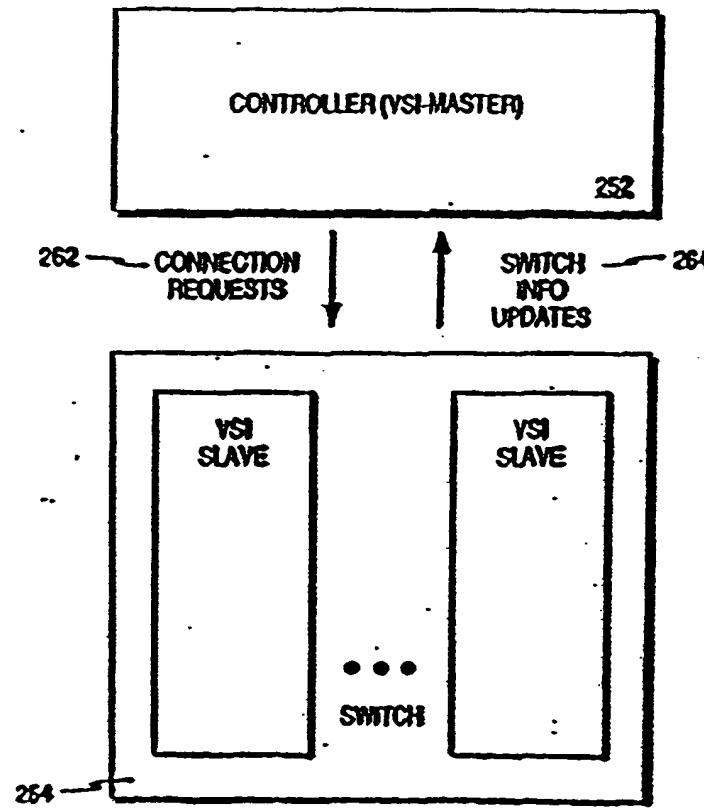
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## Title: A CONNECTION CONTROL INTERFACE FOR MULTISERVICE SWITCHES

## Abstract

A connection control interface for switches in a network is provided. The connection control interface allows the multiservice switch to provide a number of resource partitions to a number of independent controllers coupled to the switch. The switch resource partitions comprise a set of subsets of switch resources that is a number of independent subset networks of a physical network. The connection control interface allows the independent controllers to control the connections to switch using the number of switch resource partitions. The independent controllers each use one of a number of control systems, the control systems comprising a network software level. The independent controllers comprise a virtual switch slave having a master component and a slave component where the master and slave components may be hosted on different processors. The slave components may be hosted on a control card that contains a number of port cards of the switch or a port card processor. The switch resource independent controllers are synchronized when discrepancies are detected in the connections on the switch and expected by each of the plurality of independent controllers.



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